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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Belarus

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Contents

		Page
	Introduction	3
I.	Summary of the proceedings of the review process	3
	A. Presentation by the State under review	3
	B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review	5
II.	Conclusions and/or recommendations	12
Annex		
	Composition of the delegation	29

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-second session from 4 to 15 May 2015. The review of Belarus was held at the 1st meeting, on 4 May 2015. The delegation of Belarus was headed by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Valentin Rybakov. At its 10th meeting, held on 8 May 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Belarus.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Belarus: Algeria, Pakistan and Paraguay.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Belarus:

(a) A national report (A/HRC/WG.6/22/BLR/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (A/HRC/WG.6/22/ BLR/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR (A/HRC/WG.6/22/ BLR/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Belarus through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the Working Group.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation emphasized the importance of the universal periodic review to Belarus as a mechanism for the objective assessment of the human rights situation in every country. Belarus had worked on the implementation of the recommendations from the first cycle. Progress had been regularly monitored, involving all branches of Government, the academic community, civil society and the United Nations, and a midterm progress report on implementation had been submitted.

6. The national report had been prepared in partnership with civil society through four rounds of national consultation, which had resulted in measures such as equipping polling stations with Braille materials from 2015.

7. Human rights and freedoms were guaranteed in the Constitution and widely recognized principles of international law had been transposed into national legislation. As a relatively new State, Belarus had set itself ambitious tasks in protecting the rights of its citizens. In a complex geopolitical situation, Belarus remained an island of peace, tranquillity and order, thanks to strong State power and effective State policy.

8. In the past five years, Belarus had climbed 15 places in the Human Development Index; almost all of the Millennium Development Goals had been achieved, five of them ahead of schedule. Other positive indicators had been achieved in the fields of education, gender equality, improving the quality of drinking water and immunization of children.

9. Belarus had acceded to six international instruments in the past five years and was preparing to sign the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Numerous legislative changes had been adopted as part of the accessions. In 2013, a judicial reform programme had commenced with the aim of strengthening judicial independence and making other improvements to the system. Numerous laws were under preparation in other fields and in 2015, a National Strategy on Sustainable Socioeconomic Growth to 2030 had been prepared. There were institutions for the protection and promotion of various human rights and, although not perfect, they were generally effective.

10. Discrimination was forbidden under the Constitution and criminally punishable, as was hate speech. The 2013 concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination referred to the country's protection of freedom of religion and belief. Belarus had taken measures in the field of gender equality; 30 per cent of the parliamentarians in Belarus were women.

11. The death penalty had been retained in Belarus as a temporary measure and was applicable only to the most serious crimes. The delegation noted the specific restrictions on its use, the country's compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the continuous public focus on the issue. The parliamentary group established to study the issue had resumed its work in 2012. While public opinion in favour of a moratorium and gradual abolition was important, current opinion polls indicated that 70 per cent of respondents favoured its retention. In 2015, the possibility of substituting a death sentence with life imprisonment by agreement with the prosecution had been introduced.

12. Regarding the situation of detainees, the increasing numbers of appeals to the courts indicated confidence in the system. There was public oversight of prisons and civil society organizations had access to them. In 2015, a definition of torture that was in compliance with the definition contained in the Convention against Torture had been introduced into the Criminal Code. Six prisons were being reconstructed, subject to the country's financial constraints.

13. The current National Action Plan for the improvement of the situation of children and the protection of their rights had been under implementation since 2012. It included many measures that had been recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. There had been developments in juvenile justice and measures to improve child protection, including increased rates of adoption.

14. Belarus had made significant progress in addressing domestic violence, including the introduction of the concept into legislation. A draft law on domestic violence was under preparation and a series of relevant measures were in place.

15. The law on combating trafficking in human beings had been adopted in 2012. The delegation described the relevant measures that had been taken, including in the field of victim support.

16. Belarus had accepted the competence of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to receive individual complaints. Only 20 countries worldwide had accepted the competence of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to receive individual complaints. Belarus had repeatedly stated that it did not recognize the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and had explained its concerns about how the mandate had been created. Presidential elections would be held in 2015. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) principles would be respected and the elections would be transparent with national, regional and international oversight secured. There were no reports to the treaty bodies overdue.

17. A unified judicial system had been created and the military courts had been abolished. In January 2014, the executive had relinquished all its authority in relation to judicial administration. Work continued on the creation of a professional corps of judges; 40 per cent were currently under the age of 40 and more than half were currently women. The practices in the appointment of judges were consistent with those throughout the world. More than half of the judges were now on lifetime appointments. Belarus was moving towards an appellate system for appeals in both criminal and civil law. Other developments included the use of modern technology and the introduction of mediation to settle civil disputes.

18. As for progress in the development of civil society, as of January 2015, more than 2,500 civil society organizations were registered and the trend in increasing registrations was being sustained. The process of registration of organizations was carried out strictly in accordance with the law and everything possible had been done to ensure that the process was not burdensome. Some individuals had knowingly submitted false information which had prevented the registration of their organizations and there had been cases in which groups had used their unregistered status for political ends. In February 2014, new legislation had simplified the process for registration, regulation of statutes and liquidation of political parties and civil society organizations.

19. The delegation outlined the principles applied in the regulation of the legal profession and mentioned the new law on the legal profession, which had entered into force in 2013.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 95 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

21. Sweden was deeply concerned about the continued use of the death penalty and noted new legislation which increased State control over the Internet.

22. Switzerland deplored the intimidation of civil society and expressed concern at impunity for perpetrators of torture.

23. Syria commended Belarus for the steps it had taken to improve national legislation and ensure its compatibility with its human rights commitments, as well as efforts to guarantee the right to education.

24. Tajikistan noted that the practical steps taken by Belarus bore witness to the country's willingness to fulfil its international obligations.

25. Thailand encouraged Belarus to establish a national human rights institution and adopt measures on persons with disabilities.

26. Turkmenistan welcomed the amendments that had been made to national legislation aimed, inter alia, at strengthening democratic reforms and the formation of civil society.

27. The United Arab Emirates noted the efforts of Belarus to combat human trafficking, adopt national legislation, train law enforcement officials and accede to treaties.

28. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland urged Belarus to improve democratic standards for the forthcoming elections.

29. Noting the release of Ales Bialiatski, the United States of America asked Belarus to release all political prisoners, and highlighted restrictions on free expression, civil society and the media.

30. Uruguay welcomed the fact that Belarus was preparing to sign the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

31. Argentina welcomed the 2012–2016 action plan on children's rights. It urged Belarus to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

32. Uzbekistan noted the achievements Belarus had made in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and its efforts in combating trafficking in persons.

33. Viet Nam highlighted the progress Belarus had made to ensure social security, health services, education and decent work conditions and to protect vulnerable groups.

34. Zimbabwe noted the social welfare policies for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, as well as the human rights education awareness programme.

35. Algeria welcomed the accession of Belarus to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and its efforts towards accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

36. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela acknowledged the implementation of the previous universal periodic review recommendations and the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the social protection policies in place in Belarus.

37. Austria commended Belarus for its more constructive engagement with European partners.

38. Azerbaijan noted the strengthening of the human rights legal framework, the better understanding between religions and the cooperation of Belarus with human rights mechanisms.

39. Bahrain commended the measures that had been taken to implement previous universal periodic review recommendations, to improve minorities' rights and to combat xenophobia and racial discrimination.

40. Bangladesh noted the achievements Belarus had made in implementing free and compulsory education, raising women's education to a high level and reducing maternal and infant mortality.

41. Belgium welcomed the submission by Belarus of a progress report on the implementation of its universal periodic review recommendations.

42. Nicaragua commended Belarus for the legislative reforms it had introduced based on universal periodic review recommendations, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the national plan on international technical cooperation.

43. Bosnia and Herzegovina commended Belarus for its ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and its efforts to establish a national human rights institution.

44. Brazil welcomed the national plan on gender equality.

45. Botswana noted the legislative and policy measures that had been taken since the previous review. It was concerned about mass arrests of demonstrators.

46. Brunei Darussalam commended Belarus for its efforts to improve and adopt national legislation to fulfil its international obligations.

47. Canada was deeply concerned at the ongoing detention of political prisoners and at continuing restrictions on civil society.

48. Chile urged Belarus to strengthen its coopera'ion with human rights mechanisms, especially the special procedures.

49. China welcomed the comprehensive measures to enhance social protection and to ensure that the elderly and others had an adequate standard of living.

50. The Congo was concerned that conventions protecting the rights of migrant workers had yet to be incorporated into national legislation.

51. Costa Rica noted the progress made.

52. Croatia identified the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression as the most urgent issue.

53. Singapore noted the adoption of legislation on trafficking in persons in 2012 and the implementation of related policies.

54. The Czech Republic made recommendations.

55. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea mentioned the considerable progress made in the implementation of the recommendations from the first universal periodic review.

56. Belarus outlined the priorities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The operations of the police in detaining persons, using physical force, firearms and other means was strictly regulated in law. Detained persons had the right to judicial examination of the legality of their detention. The law also allowed people to submit complaints about the behaviour of police officers; 6,000 such complaints had been received in 2014, which represented a 10 per cent reduction from 2013. After investigation, one in ten of the complaints had been found to be justified and appropriate measures had been taken. Only five complaints had been received concerning the unlawful use of force. The same trends in the statistics had been seen from the start of 2015.

57. Public prosecutors focused on preventing violations of the constitutional rights of citizens as the best method of preventing human rights violations and the indicators showed increased public confidence in the prosecutorial system. In cases of mass gatherings, the prosecutors worked to ensure that public order was maintained and to protect the rights of all citizens, not just that of participants. Prosecutors played an important role in preventing illegal immigration, in the light of the threat of terrorism, and were also engaged in monitoring the Internet to gather evidence on issues such as trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking and threats to public order. They also thoroughly investigated all complains of torture or inhuman treatment.

58. The delegation outlined the policies of Belarus on the execution of sanctions, including the legal framework, and noted that compulsory labour for prisoners did not constitute forced labour under the terms of the conventions of the International Labour Organization. Prison management authorities were open to cooperation with civil society organizations, including international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and there was a State system for oversight of penal institutions which also included judicial oversight. NGOs could participate in the commissions for oversight and also had access to the correctional institutions outside of the commission, as did religious organizations. Furthermore, NGOs could participate in rehabilitation activities.

59. Belarus had been cooperating with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and had invited the special procedures to visit the country, but responses had not yet been received. However, it did not support the mandates of the special procedures that violated the Human Rights Council resolutions on institution-building. The political engagement of certain mandate holders was not conducive to respectful dialogue and they had thus not been invited. Belarus had cooperated actively with OHCHR and in 2011, the High Commissioner had been invited to visit. Technical cooperation activities had been undertaken and consultations on the possible creation of an Ombudsman had also included

international experts, representatives of the Council of Europe and civil society, and representatives of organizations that did not support the Government's policies. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action gave States the right to decide upon the appropriate national structures.

60. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons enjoyed equality, including the availability of free sex-change surgery.

61. Denmark welcomed the release of Ales Bialiatski, but remained concerned at the situation regarding freedom of expression and assembly and remaining political prisoners.

62. Ecuador acknowledged the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations on free education and the national action plan on gender equality.

63. Egypt welcomed steps to combat human trafficking and prevent torture, and legal reforms, particularly amendments to the Labour and Criminal Procedure Codes.

64. El Salvador commended efforts to implement universal periodic review recommendations and the priority given to implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

65. Estonia noted increased engagement in discussing human rights but regretted the fact that Belarus refused to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus.

66. Ethiopia commended the wide coverage of social services, such as access to medical services and elementary and secondary education.

67. Finland was concerned about reports of discrimination and profiling of members of the Roma community, but noted positive practices in ensuring their access to primary education.

68. France made recommendations.

69. Germany appreciated the fact that there had been positive signs from Belarus on human rights, but was concerned that the overall human rights situation remained dire.

70. Ghana commended the inclusion of torture in the Criminal Code as well as other changes relating to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

71. Greece was concerned about violations of the right to freedom of assembly, restrictions on Internet freedom and other issues.

72. Guatemala welcomed the accession of Belarus to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its adoption of the law on international labour migration.

73. The Holy See welcomed the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Act and commended measures to support families with children.

74. Hungary noted endeavours to establish a national human rights institution and efforts to eliminate domestic violence and protect women's rights.

75. India commended the clearance of the backlog of reports to the treaty bodies and noted cooperation with the special procedures. It appreciated the achievements Belarus had made in terms of the Millennium Development Goals and encouraged it to strengthen its capacities in pursuit of gender parity.

76. Indonesia appreciated the comparative analysis of national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and noted the study conducted on establishing a national human rights institution.

77. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended measures that Belarus had taken concerning children's rights, health care, the elimination of domestic violence, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

78. Iraq noted the adoption of legislation on education and on migrants and the submission of reports to treaty bodies, including the common core document.

79. Ireland urged Belarus to promote wider use of the Belarusian language in all areas of life, including education and culture.

80. Italy welcomed the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

81. Japan appreciated steps taken to implement the National Action Plan for Gender Equality.

82. Kazakhstan welcomed the efforts Belarus had made in the areas of children's and women's rights, counter-trafficking, education and the judiciary.

83. Kuwait commended Belarus for its adoption of legislation promoting human rights, which aimed to achieve equality among its citizens.

84. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the accession of Belarus to several international instruments, its progress in improving medical services, and the measures it had taken to meet the Millennium Development Goals, combat human trafficking and achieve gender equality.

85. Latvia remained concerned about the human rights situation in Belarus, in particular with regard to freedom of assembly, association and expression.

86. Lithuania noted the progress that had been made in certain areas with regard to its recommendations from the first universal periodic review.

87. Luxembourg was concerned about restrictions that were placed on human rights defenders and journalists and urged Belarus to cooperate with the special procedures.

88. Malaysia noted the efforts and progress made in the establishment of a national human rights institution, poverty alleviation, women's rights and the promotion of children's rights.

89. Mexico commended the progress made concerning the Millennium Development Goals and education. It urged Belarus to ensure that members of the Roma community had access to education without discrimination.

90. Montenegro encouraged Belarus to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and to abolish the death penalty.

91. Morocco noted the willingness of Belarus to eradicate poverty and reduce unemployment and maternal and infant mortality and the measures it was taking to combat human trafficking.

92. Myanmar noted progress in the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations.

93. Namibia commended Belarus for the amendments it had made to various legislative instruments including the Education Code and the Presidential Decree on improving the judicial system.

94. Belarus stated that it was among world leaders in terms of access to health care and had fully integrated the World Health Organization Health 2020 policy into its national policies. Access was equal for all regardless of age, sex, place of residence, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or social status. Progress had been made since the first universal

periodic review, inter alia, in combating tuberculosis and in sexual and reproductive health, in cooperation with United Nations Children's Fund and United Nations Population Fund.

95. The delegation highlighted the damage caused by the Chernobyl disaster and how it had been able to cope with its own resources. The experience of Belarus meant it was one of the top ten countries in the world in the treatment of childhood leukaemia.

96. The level of employment in Belarus was high and programmes were in place to support persons who were less competitive in the labour market. There had been a consistent increase in the standard of living and quality of life. Pay, pensions and family allowances had increased in the past four years. The poverty index for Belarus had reduced by a factor of 8.7 in the last 14 years. Despite the ageing population, the pension age had been maintained at 55 and 60 years for women and men, respectively.

97. Protection of children and the family was a priority for the Government and there had been recent increases in family allowances. Women enjoyed equal access to education and training and in other spheres. The slight gender pay gap was down to the fact that more men than women were employed in industry, construction and dangerous professions, which provided higher remuneration. Men and women received equal pay for equal work. Recently adopted legislation and government programmes ensured that persons with disabilities enjoyed unhindered access to social infrastructure, a better quality of life and improved integration into society.

98. Monopolization of the mass media and censorship were forbidden and the Law on the Mass Media also guaranteed freedom of thought, belief and expression. The population and journalists enjoyed free access to information, which was facilitated by regular government press conferences. The information space in Belarus was open and there were foreign media among the 7,000 registered media organizations and 193 registered foreign television stations. Some 1,573 print media publications were registered, including publications in Russian, Belarusian and foreign languages. Amendments to the media law in January 2015 aimed at social protection and national security had broadened electronic access to information. While no registration was necessary for Internet access, the legislation addressed the threats and challenges arising from pornography, drug promotion and extremism on the Internet. A State commission was working to identify extremist materials.

99. The Netherlands appreciated the cooperation of Belarus with the European Union on human rights. It remained concerned about the state of democracy and human rights.

100. The Plurinational State of Bolivia acknowledged progress in the implementation of human rights in Belarus.

101. Nigeria commended Belarus for improvements to its legislation in the implementation of certain universal periodic review recommendations.

102. Norway regretted that Belarus had made little effort since the last review to address its systematic denial of human rights.

103. Oman welcomed the methodology that had been implemented in dealing with the second cycle of the universal periodic review. It noted the efforts Belarus had made, particularly on the independence of the judiciary.

104. Pakistan commended Belarus for its decision to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, its adoption of legislation to counter trafficking and improve the judicial system and its constructive engagement with OHCHR.

105. Paraguay asked about progress made by the parliamentary working group on the death penalty and in terms of the criminalization of torture, and encouraged Belarus to increase its cooperation with the special procedures.

106. Peru expressed concern about the lack of a national human rights institution, the lack of independence of the judiciary and the government control of the media.

107. The Philippines welcomed the increased participation of women in political and social life and encouraged Belarus to continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

108. Poland expressed concern at continued human rights violations which were of a systemic and systematic nature.

109. Portugal was concerned at systematic violations of human rights and noted that Belarus was the only country in Europe to apply the death penalty.

110. The Republic of Korea appreciated the adoption by Belarus of legislation on equality in education, preventing human trafficking, improving the judicial system and supporting families with children.

111. Romania commended the steps taken since the last review, while noting challenges hindering the full enjoyment of human rights.

112. The Russian Federation welcomed the consistent cooperation of Belarus with the universal periodic review and the measures it had taken to strengthen human rights protection.

113. Rwanda commended the adoption of laws and regulations aimed at improving national legislation and noted the significant reduction in infant mortality.

114. Senegal welcomed the accession of Belarus to several human rights conventions and the legislative measures it had taken to guarantee quality education and better functioning of the judiciary.

115. Serbia commended the efforts Belarus had made in the universal periodic review process and its engagement with non-governmental stakeholders.

116. Sierra Leone acknowledged the progress Belarus had made since the first universal periodic review and urged it to prosecute all acts of violence against women.

117. Cuba stated that Belarus had undeniably made progress on human rights.

118. Slovakia invited Belarus to accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and expressed concern about the independence and impartiality of the justice system.

119. Slovenia noted the commitment of Belarus to the international trend towards the gradual abolition of the death penalty. It remained concerned about continuing human rights violations.

120. Spain was concerned that Belarus continued to be the last country in Europe to apply the death penalty.

121. Sri Lanka recognized the efforts of Belarus to safeguard the socioeconomic rights of its people, as reflected in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

122. The State of Palestine acknowledged the efforts of Belarus to promote and protect human rights since the first review and welcomed various measures to ensure the education of children.

123. The Sudan noted with satisfaction the legislative and judicial reforms related to education, copyright protection, trafficking and the achievement of five of the Millennium Development Goals.

124. Uganda noted the accession of Belarus to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the amendments to the Marriage and Family Codes and the Labour Code.

125. Australia remained deeply concerned by continuing violations of human rights in Belarus, particularly in relation to political prisoners and the death penalty.

126. Belarus stated that it would continue to develop and improve its system of human rights protection and promotion. The Government's interaction with international organizations, including the current review, would strengthen its achievements.

II. Conclusions and recommendations**

127. **The recommendations listed below have been examined by Belarus and enjoy the support of Belarus:**

127.1 **Carry out public campaigns explaining the arguments for the abolition of the death penalty with the aim of ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia);**

127.2 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria) (Ecuador) (Peru) (Rwanda);**

127.3 **Continue its review efforts with a view to ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in the future (Philippines);**

127.4 **Reconsider its conclusion not to accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as contained in Recommendation 1 (Nigeria);**

127.5 **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

127.6 **Continue taking measures with a view to ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a priority (Indonesia);**

127.7 **Speed up the procedures to complete the process of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Iraq);**

127.8 **Finalize the process of accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at its earliest (Kazakhstan);**

127.9 **Conclude domestic processes relating to signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Zimbabwe);**

127.10 **Accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as soon as possible. In the interim continue to do what it can to counter discrimination against people with disabilities and to promote their inclusion in society (Singapore);**

127.11 **Continue efforts to strengthen the legislative and institutional basis of the national system for the protection of human rights (Uzbekistan);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

127.12 **Continue efforts to harmonize national legislation with international human rights norms (Morocco);**

127.13 **Observe all human rights principles, international conventions and raise awareness among the population regarding human rights values (Turkmenistan);**

127.14 **Pursue fulfilling its obligations under international human rights mechanisms in the future (Kazakhstan);**

127.15 **Study the possibility of creating a follow-up system on international recommendations which includes universal periodic review accepted recommendations (Paraguay);**

127.16 **Continue its efforts for the establishment of the national human rights institution (Sudan);**

127.17 **Facilitate the necessary process for establishing a national human rights institution, which should ensure the enjoyment of basic human rights for all citizens (Republic of Korea);**

127.18 **Redouble efforts aimed at establishing an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Chile);**

127.19 **Take further steps aimed at strengthening its national institution in the area of protection and promotion of the rights of the child (Egypt);**

127.20 **Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, as previously recommended (Malaysia);**

127.21 **Consider the establishment of a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Zimbabwe);**

127.22 **Consider the appropriateness of establishing a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Nicaragua);**

127.23 **Strengthen government cooperation with civil society organizations in ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights (Uzbekistan);**

127.24 **Strengthen cooperation with civil society organizations (Russian Federation);**

127.25 **Enhance its interaction with human rights organizations, as well as continue working on mechanisms of consultation between the Government and civil society, including enabling more effective involvement of civil society in the preparation of legal acts (Serbia);**

127.26 **Strengthen further the links of cooperation and coordination with civil society as regards the promotion and protection of human rights (Morocco);**

127.27 **Continue constructive cooperation with the universal mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights and also the practice of cooperation with civil society (Tajikistan);**

127.28 **Continue active cooperation with human rights mechanisms (Azerbaijan);**

127.29 **Further engage with relevant international stakeholders, including United Nations human rights mechanisms (Viet Nam);**

127.30 **Continue its cooperation with the United Nations, other international organizations and human rights mechanisms to overcome remaining constraints and challenges (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

127.31 **Submit its overdue report to the Human Rights Committee (Ghana);**

127.32 **Deploy necessary human, legal and financial measures in order to effectively implement the recommendations issued by the United Nations treaty bodies (Senegal);**

127.33 **Strengthen the cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular by permitting visits by special procedures mandate holders (Hungary);**

127.34 **Cooperate fully and effectively with the United Nations treaty bodies and special procedures and ensure that reports are submitted without delay (Slovakia);**

127.35 **Continue strengthening the cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, through joint activities to improve national capacities in the field of human rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

127.36 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination in judicial practices and law enforcement (Oman);**

127.37 **Develop national mechanisms for the protection of vulnerable groups in the population (Tajikistan);**

127.38 **Continue its efforts in promotion of well-being of people with the emphasis on the most vulnerable ones (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

127.39 **Continue the efforts to support the most vulnerable groups of population, including those efforts that guarantee the social inclusion of persons with disabilities (Cuba);**

127.40 **Make further investment in the protection and promotion of women's and children's rights (Viet Nam);**

127.41 **Continue to implement its plan to combat discrimination against women (Bahrain);**

127.42 **Continue working so that women's rights are fully respected (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

127.43 **Adequately resource the implementation of the Fourth National Plan of Action on Gender Equality and promptly adopt the draft law on prevention of domestic violence (Lithuania);**

127.44 **Continue to implement the national gender equality policy framework developed in 2012 (Pakistan);**

127.45 **Strengthen the capacity and enhance the resources of the National Commission on Gender Policy to ensure the full enjoyment of gender equality (Namibia);**

127.46 **Continue its efforts in ensuring gender equality and to diversify academic and vocational choices for women and men and take further measures to encourage women and men to choose non-traditional fields of education and careers (State of Palestine);**

127.47 **Further abolish any discriminatory practices against women in accessing higher education, diversify academic disciplines for men and women, and take additional measures to encourage men and women to choose non-traditional career choices (Thailand);**

127.48 **Continue its efforts to remedy the wage gap between men and women (Philippines);**

127.49 **Continue current efforts to protect and promote women workers' rights (Syrian Arab Republic);**

127.50 **Strengthen the measures aimed at reducing cases of racial discrimination, both direct and indirect, and investigate speech inciting racial hatred and speech inciting racial violence (Argentina);**

127.51 **Strictly implement its international obligations on addressing the impunity of perpetrators of torture, notably article 4 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);**

127.52 **Combat torture committed in particular by law enforcement officers and in prisons and ensure that such acts not remain unpunished (France);**

127.53 **Develop a legislative package for the prevention of and combating of gender-based violence and provide greater financial and human resources to the National Council on Gender Policy (Spain);**

127.54 **Actively combat domestic violence and violence against children (Tajikistan);**

127.55 **Continue its efforts aimed at combating domestic violence (Algeria);**

127.56 **Continue developing systematic actions, including legislative ones, to combat domestic violence (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

127.57 **Continue its efforts in improving protection of women's rights, including combating domestic violence (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

127.58 **Continue the national efforts to combat domestic violence (Kuwait);**

127.59 **Intensify efforts in combating domestic violence and violence against women including through effective implementation of its Principles of Crime Prevention Act (Malaysia);**

127.60 **Further enhance efforts to address the issue of domestic violence and victim assistance (Myanmar);**

127.61 **Intensify efforts to prevent and prosecute acts of domestic and sexual violence against women as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Rwanda);**

127.62 **Continue efforts in the prevention of violence against children (Russian Federation);**

127.63 **Continue to provide protection for the victims of trafficking in persons and to strengthen its national laws and to foster cooperation with regional and international organizations in the field of combating trafficking in persons (United Arab Emirates);**

127.64 **Take additional measures to combat trafficking in persons (Bahrain);**

127.65 **Take necessary steps for prevention of violence against children and promotion and protection of women's rights especially combating trafficking in women (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

127.66 **Continue to ensure the effective implementation of its legislation and policies to prevent and combat human trafficking (Singapore);**

127.67 **Take further steps to ensure practical realization of the improved national legislation, in particular in the areas of children's and women's rights protection, counter-trafficking, education and judiciary (Kazakhstan);**

127.68 **Continue working to fight against human trafficking and share its best practices in that regard (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

127.69 **Continue to strive towards the consolidation of international efforts in the combating of trafficking in human beings, including through educational courses based at the Minsk Centre (Russian Federation);**

127.70 **Build upon the existing structures and strengthen the protection of victims of human trafficking, but also address the root causes of this phenomenon and involve preventative measures (Serbia);**

127.71 **Continue the efforts to promote in the international agenda the issue of the fight against trafficking in persons (Cuba);**

127.72 **Strengthen its work towards combating trafficking in persons with assistance from the relevant United Nations agencies and the international community, as deemed necessary (Sri Lanka);**

127.73 **Enhance job opportunities at home for the population susceptible to human trafficking, especially those from disadvantaged background who seek employment overseas (Thailand);**

127.74 **Ensure that the judiciary is free from any interference from other branches of Government (Switzerland);**

127.75 **Continue promoting, by all appropriate means, the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Senegal);**

127.76 **Support the institution of the traditional family and the preservation of family values (Russian Federation);**

127.77 **Continue the efforts to promote and protect traditional family values (Kuwait);**

127.78 **Continue strengthening its efforts in ensuring the well-being of children, particularly those living in foster care, so that they could enjoy living in a healthy family environment (Malaysia);**

127.79 **Improve the overall situation of media freedom (Slovenia);**

127.80 **Take the steps necessary to ensure that its upcoming presidential elections are free, fair and in line with international standards, in full respect of article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including by allowing opposition parties to freely participate (Canada);**

127.81 **Create an environment conducive for free, fair and peaceful elections and ensure the personal safety and equal treatment of all candidates and voters throughout the electoral process in the upcoming presidential elections and beyond (Czech Republic);**

127.82 **Take measures aimed at ensuring transparency, justice and non-repression in the presidential election process of 2015, including by inviting international observers (Mexico);**

127.83 **Continue promoting women's rights in order to encourage their participation in decision-making processes (Nicaragua);**

127.84 **Continue plans to increase employment in the country, especially for its vulnerable groups (Brunei Darussalam);**

127.85 **Continue to take effective measures ensuring the realization of the right to work for its citizens including through national programmes to promote decent work and full and productive employment especially for women and young people (Egypt);**

127.86 **Follow up on the recommendation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding the elimination of all forms of forced labour (Luxembourg);**

127.87 **Continue the practice of implementing programmes aimed at further improving the welfare of the population (Turkmenistan);**

127.88 **Continue consolidating its excellent social protection system for the benefit of its population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

127.89 **Based on the level of economic and social development, further improve social security of the vulnerable groups including the elderly, women, children and persons with disabilities (China);**

127.90 **Continue implementing economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights for the benefit of all its population (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

127.91 **Continue to eradicate poverty and improve in particular the standard of living of rural populations (China);**

127.92 **Continue its efforts to eliminate poverty, paying particular attention to the situation of children, single parents and the rural population (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

127.93 **Take measures aimed at guaranteeing targeted support for persons living under the poverty line, paying particular attention to the situation of children, single-parent families and the rural population (Luxembourg);**

127.94 **Take further steps to raise the living standards of the people in the rural areas (Myanmar);**

127.95 **Strengthen promotion of healthy lifestyles of adolescents and prevention of harmful habits (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

127.96 **Continue the result-orientated policy in the field of the fight against infectious diseases, primarily tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS (Cuba);**

127.97 **Improve the health situation of all children irrespective of status (Bangladesh);**

127.98 **Continue the efforts to improve reproductive health, through the introduction of new and up-to-date technologies (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

127.99 **Continue implementing access for all women to reproductive health services and improving the quality of care given (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

127.100 **Continue its national plans and programmes to improve the quality of education (Syrian Arab Republic);**

127.101 **Continue its initiatives in ensuring the provision of quality education for all its people (Brunei Darussalam);**

127.102 **Continue to further improve the quality of school education for children (Pakistan);**

127.103 **Increase the availability of preschool facilities in rural areas (Bangladesh);**

127.104 **Continue efforts in expanding educational facilities to rural areas and advance the educational and vocational training facilities for men and women equally (Sri Lanka);**

127.105 **Increase the availability of preschool facilities in rural areas and ensure that members of the Roma community are not discriminated against and that they have equal access to education (State of Palestine);**

127.106 **Take the necessary measures to promote the rights of persons with disabilities (Bahrain);**

127.107 **Continue its measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

127.108 **Take appropriate legislative measures towards the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and towards improvement of living conditions, employment opportunities and access of persons with disabilities (Japan);**

127.109 **Take appropriate legislative and regulatory measures to fight against discrimination and strengthen the protection and integration of persons with disabilities (Senegal);**

127.110 **Raise public awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities (Sudan);**

127.111 **Move forward to make necessary arrangements for the adoption of a comprehensive national policy on persons with disabilities (Uganda);**

127.112 **Implement policies which guarantee better protection for asylum seekers and refugees (Sierra Leone);**

127.113 **Continue to be on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (Ethiopia).**

128. **The following recommendations enjoy the support of Belarus which considers that they are already implemented:**

128.1 **Step up its efforts to combat and prevent discrimination faced by persons belonging to Roma communities, including ensuring the right to education on a non-discriminatory basis for all Roma children (Finland);**

128.2 **Reform the judiciary so it can operate free from direct influence, oversight, pressure or interference of the executive branch of the Government (Czech Republic).**

129. **The following recommendations will be examined by Belarus, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirtieth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2015:**

129.1 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);**

129.2 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Congo);**

129.3 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sierra Leone);**

129.4 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as the main international instruments in the field of human rights to which it is not yet a party (Argentina);**

129.5 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and conduct an in-depth independent investigation into the disappearances of public figures that occurred in 1999 and 2000 with a view to bringing the authors of those crimes to justice (France);**

129.6 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Paraguay);**

129.7 **Consider expediting the ratification of the core human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Republic of Korea);**

129.8 **Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Ghana);**

129.9 **Enact a law on comprehensive protection of the rights of the child and of adolescents, which guarantees greater stability in the promotion and protection of these rights (El Salvador);**

129.10 **Set up an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);**

129.11 **Set up an independent national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Ghana);**

129.12 **Establish a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Guatemala);**

129.13 **Establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Namibia);**

129.14 **Establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Portugal);**

129.15 **Establish an effective and independent national human rights institution in 2015 (Australia);**

129.16 **Put in place a national human rights institution which is in conformity with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);**

129.17 **Promote the completion of the existing initiative to establish a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Peru);**

129.18 **Provide the legal framework for the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, and in consultation with civil society (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

129.19 **Positively consider the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**

129.20 **Do more in providing the enabling environment for the institution responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights and by particularly establishing a national human rights commission (Nigeria);**

129.21 **Cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and allow visits by special procedures mandate holders (Costa Rica);**

129.22 **Cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, particularly the special procedures mandate holders (El Salvador);**

129.23 **Issue an invitation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights so that he carries out a technical mission in Belarus, pursuant to resolution 17/24 (Peru);**

129.24 **Adopt specific and comprehensive legislation against direct and indirect discrimination, as well as on harassment based on sexual orientation (Uruguay);**

129.25 **Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law which would prohibit discrimination on any ground and establish mechanisms to ensure the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and legal remedies in cases of discrimination (Slovakia);**

129.26 **Enact comprehensive legislation against discrimination to avoid any kind of discrimination on the grounds of religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, language, political conviction or physical or mental disability (Chile);**

129.27 **Make further efforts toward adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, concerning, in particular, institutive actions to tackle the issue of violence against women (Serbia);**

129.28 **Ensure that respect for the principal of non-discrimination on the basis of gender includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and adopt specific anti-discrimination legislation for this group (Spain);**

129.29 **Do everything necessary to revitalize the discussions within the parliamentary working group on the death penalty and ensure that the minimum standards are applied pending an eventual moratorium (Belgium);**

129.30 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Ecuador);**

129.31 **Declare a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its final abolition (Uruguay);**

129.32 **Abolish capital punishment, and as an interim measure, introduce a moratorium on the death penalty (Sweden);**

129.33 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Rwanda);**

129.34 **Declare a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and, to that end, support the work of the parliamentary working group on the death penalty, particularly with a view to amending the Criminal Code and to adhering to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Brazil);**

129.35 **Introduce an immediate moratorium on the death penalty aimed at its permanent abolition and implement the Committee against Torture recommendations on arbitrary and secret executions (Costa Rica);**

129.36 **Establish as quickly as possible a moratorium on executions with a view to a definitive abolition of the death penalty, and ensure respect for the fundamental rights of those persons convicted and their families (France);**

129.37 **Consider the introduction of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in the national criminal system (Guatemala);**

129.38 **Consider introducing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition (Holy See);**

129.39 **Take concrete steps towards the abolition of the death penalty, including the imposition of an immediate moratorium on its use (Ireland);**

129.40 **Advance the work of the parliamentary working group on the death penalty and introduce an immediate moratorium (Lithuania);**

129.41 **Establish an immediate official moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Montenegro);**

129.42 **Establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition (Norway);**

129.43 **In accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolution, establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards global abolition (Netherlands);**

129.44 **Establish a de facto moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**

129.45 **Place a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to eradicating it (Sierra Leone);**

129.46 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a step towards its abolition (Spain);**

129.47 **Introduce a moratorium on executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**

129.48 **Establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovenia);**

129.49 **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**

129.50 **Introduce amendments to the code on the penitentiaries to guarantee that the families of condemned persons have the opportunity to say goodbye and bury the corpses in accordance with international standards (Spain);**

129.51 **Reform the judiciary to ensure its independence and respect of international norms such as the respect of the right of the defence and the right to a fair trial. Review regulations on the appointment, dismissal and disciplinary procedures against judges as well as the length of their mandates (France);**

129.52 **Strengthen further the impartiality and independence of the judiciary by implementing the recent decrees on judicial procedures and by promptly and thoroughly investigating any allegation or complaint of ill-treatment in national detention facilities (Holy See);**

129.53 **Take all the necessary legislative and other measures in order to guarantee the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary in line with the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary (endorsed by General Assembly resolutions), including by establishing an independent body responsible for the appointment, promotion, suspension and removal of judges (Poland);**

129.54 **Ensure the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by devolving all the functions in terms of the appointment, suspension and removal of judges, from the executive bodies to the judges' self-government bodies (Slovakia);**

129.55 **Ensure that no restrictions are imposed on the right to freedom of religion and belief, and guarantee greater respect for the right to freedom of expression and freedom of association (Holy See);**

129.56 **Amend its legislation to guarantee that freedom of expression on the Internet cannot be limited by the arbitrary decision of authorities (Sweden);**

129.57 **Bring its law on mass media in line with international standards on press freedom and ensure that civil society and human rights defenders can peacefully and without fear of arbitrary arrest exercise their right to freedom of expression, assembly and association, in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);**

129.58 **Amend the law on mass media to ensure it does not unduly restrict freedom of expression, in line with recommendations made by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (Norway);**

129.59 **Bring the legislative framework in line with the recommendations made by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in order to ensure that it does not restrict freedom of expression and pluralism of media (Poland);**

129.60 **Better guarantee freedom of the press and freedom of expression, as well as the right to plural information (Senegal);**

129.61 **Ensure that human rights defenders are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association (Slovenia);**

129.62 **Take measures to guarantee freedom of expression as well as to respect peaceful protests (Costa Rica);**

129.63 **Ensure conditions for the opposition and human rights activists to freely work and express their views without fear of unsubstantiated prosecution (Croatia);**

129.64 **Amend the law on public association and mass gathering as well as media legislation to comply with international standards, including by decriminalizing defamation (Estonia);**

129.65 **Remove all obstacles to freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly and the press, ensuring that journalists and civil society can carry out their activities freely and safely; put an end to the harassment of journalists and remove the accreditation requirement for journalists (France);**

129.66 **Simplify the registration procedure for political parties and other public associations and foundations (Germany);**

129.67 **Promptly and effectively investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and acts of intimidation, reprisals and threats against human rights defenders and journalists (Italy);**

129.68 **Enhance efforts to guarantee freedom of expression and association, and reform the existing legislation on freedom of information in accordance with international standards (Italy);**

129.69 **Fully guarantee freedom of expression and refrain from arbitrary arrest of journalists (Romania);**

129.70 **Implement its commitment to guarantee freedom of association and expression (Australia);**

129.71 **Guarantee freedoms of assembly and association and repeal article 193-1 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes civil activity of non-registered organizations, and the Law on Mass Events (United States of America);**

129.72 **Facilitate the registration of NGOs and decriminalize the organization and participation in activities of unregistered associations by repealing article 193-1 of the Criminal Code (Czech Republic);**

129.73 **Urgently abolish article 193-1 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes activities by non-registered organizations and generally end the pattern of obstruction, harassment and intimidation of civil society organizations promoting and defending human rights, including trade unions, environmental groups, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex groups and human rights groups (Denmark);**

129.74 **Initiate legislation to repeal article 193-1 of the Criminal Code, which imposes criminal penalties for participation in unregistered organizations (Lithuania);**

129.75 **Promote and uphold the freedom of the media and the right to freedom of expression and ensure that legislation and practice are brought in line with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as conducting impartial investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation and bringing perpetrators to justice (Austria);**

129.76 **Take measures aimed at preventing threats and intimidation against journalists and human rights defenders, as well as against opponents of the Government (Uruguay);**

129.77 **Cease the intimidation, harassment and arbitrary detention of human rights defenders, NGO groups, and journalists and provide guarantees for the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, as well as ending its restrictions and surveillance of the Internet, namely by amending its legislation**

in order to remove extrajudicial procedures for blocking websites, in line with recommendations made by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, whose visit authorized by the Belarusian authorities in 2013 was a step in the right direction (Greece);

129.78 Comply with all the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, ensuring that those who engage in human rights work are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and movement without obstruction (Hungary);

129.79 Ensure the safety of human rights defenders and journalists, as well as their human rights, particularly freedom of expression and the press; and undertake swift and transparent investigation in response to the reports of intimidation, reprisal, threats and violence (Japan);

129.80 Create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment in which civil society can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, and can participate fully in democratic processes (Ireland);

129.81 Protect the right to freedom of assembly and association of human rights defenders, in particular those campaigning against discrimination based on sexual orientation (Canada);

129.82 Revise the "Law on public associations" in order to guarantee the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of association in conformity with international rights and standards (Luxembourg);

129.83 Abolish criminal responsibility for organization and participation in the activities of non-registered organizations, as well as lifting the ban on the activities of non-registered organizations (Poland);

129.84 Adapt its own domestic legislation on associations in order to remove any hindrances to the full realization of the freedom of association by its citizens (Romania);

129.85 Abandon the practice of arbitrary detention of journalists and decriminalize defamation (Lithuania);

129.86 Decriminalize the activities of non-registered NGOs and put an end to all forms of administrative or judicial harassment towards independent civil society actors (Switzerland);

129.87 Significantly simplify the procedures for the registration of civil society associations, organizations and foundations and ensure that the legal and political framework is in line with international standards (Belgium);

129.88 Remove restrictions on civil society, including the prohibition on NGOs receiving foreign funds, restrictions on volunteer work outside business hours, and obstacles to official registration of NGOs, in line with the rights to freedom of association and of expression (Canada);

129.89 Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities, and take appropriate measures to bring perpetrators to justice (Botswana);

129.90 Ensure that peaceful demonstrators are not imprisoned, harassed or ill-treated by police for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and immediately and unconditionally release all those who have been detained solely for exercising these rights (Denmark);

129.91 **Take measures to align the legislation on mass events with international standards in order to protect freedom of association, including through the elimination of the requirement to request a licence prior to the organization of assemblies and public demonstrations (Mexico);**

129.92 **Amend the Law on Mass Events in order to enable the right to peaceful assembly to be exercised more easily (Croatia);**

129.93 **Bring the mass event legislation into line with the international standards on freedom of assembly, including by abolishing the licensing principle of the conduct of events and by abolishing the requirement for the applicants to pay for maintenance of public order and for providing medical service as an indispensable condition for carrying out the event (Germany);**

129.94 **Amend its electoral laws to bring them in line with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights recommendations for electoral reform to demonstrate respect for democratic political processes, freedom of association, and freedom of expression ahead of the 2015 presidential election (United States of America);**

129.95 **Bring the electoral system in line with its OSCE commitments and principles for democratic elections, in close cooperation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (Austria);**

129.96 **Take measures to improve working conditions in line with recommendations issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including through the abolition of any kind of forced labour, elimination of fines for labour inactivity, and the abandonment of the widespread use of short-term working contracts (Mexico).**

130. **The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Belarus and would thus be noted:**

130.1 **Consider ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and introduce a de facto moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty with the view to total abolishment (Namibia);**

130.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Paraguay);**

130.3 **Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Sweden);**

130.4 **Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Italy);**

130.5 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as well as Protocols No. 6 and No. 13 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, with the aim of abolishing the death penalty (Finland);**

130.6 **Establish without delay a moratorium on the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Luxembourg);**

130.7 **Introduce a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step to abolition; produce a national plan to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; and immediately change the process of carrying out executions by notifying the family of the date of execution and burial site (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

130.8 **Introduce a moratorium on the death penalty as a short-term objective and consider the full abolition of the death penalty and accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Austria);**

130.9 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, create a national preventive mechanism in line with the Optional Protocol and acknowledge the competence of the Committee against Torture to consider allegations of breach of obligations under articles 21 and 22 of the Convention (Germany);**

130.10 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

130.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (El Salvador);**

130.12 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);**

130.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and opt into the inquiry and inter-State mechanisms (Greece);**

130.14 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Uruguay) (Denmark) (Ghana);**

130.15 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile) (Congo);**

130.16 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and bring detention conditions in places of deprivation of liberty in line with international standards (Greece);**

130.17 **Take effective legislative, administrative and other measures to prevent, investigate and punish acts of torture or ill-treatment and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Portugal);**

130.18 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica) (Ghana);**

130.19 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Guatemala);**

130.20 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and its Agreement on Privileges and Immunities (Botswana);**

130.21 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it into national law (Italy);**

130.22 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it in the national legislation, including by incorporating provisions on prompt and full cooperation with the Court (Hungary);**

130.23 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align its legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);**

130.24 **Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Montenegro);**

130.25 **Grant unfettered access to Belarus for international human rights monitors (Austria);**

130.26 **Increase cooperation with the United Nations treaty bodies, including issuing a standing invitation, and permit the SR on the situation of human rights in Belarus to visit the country (Lithuania);**

130.27 **Cooperate with United Nations follow-up mechanisms, notably by issuing a standing invitation to all the special procedures, and accepting all their visits, in particular that of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (France);**

130.28 **Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures (Ghana);**

130.29 **Issue an open invitation to the United Nations special procedures (Guatemala);**

130.30 **Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Peru);**

130.31 **Put forward extensive efforts to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, particularly by issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures and recognizing the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (Republic of Korea);**

130.32 **Take appropriate measures to consider and implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (Latvia);**

130.33 **Cooperate with the United Nations mechanisms including with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (Romania);**

130.34 **Cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and heed his recommendations (Slovenia);**

130.35 **Invite the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus to visit the country to demonstrate the Government's commitment to respecting human rights (United States of America);**

130.36 **Cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and issue a standing invitation to special procedures or, if this is not agreeable, accept the special rapporteurs who have requested a visit (Belgium);**

130.37 **Take appropriate measures to grant unfettered access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus as well as respond**

positively to pending visit requests of other special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and eventually consider extending a standing invitation (Latvia);

130.38 Grant unfettered access to Belarus for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and other special procedures mandate holders, comply with the recommendations of the Rapporteur's reports without delay and resume cooperation with all international organizations (Norway);

130.39 Release immediately all political prisoners and ensure their full rehabilitation (Lithuania);

130.40 Proceed to release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners (Luxembourg);

130.41 Immediately and unconditionally release all those who have been detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression and assembly (Estonia);

130.42 Immediately release the remaining political prisoners (Slovenia);

130.43 End the detention of political activists and release all political prisoners without delay (Australia);

130.44 Immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners and ensure their full rehabilitation (Poland);

130.45 Review the cases of detention of individuals found to be deprived of their liberty for reasons which might be associated with the peaceful exercise of human rights and freedoms (Brazil);

130.46 Release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners, members of the opposition, human rights defenders and activists, ensure their full rehabilitation, and lift travel and other restrictions imposed on political prisoners who have been pardoned (Norway);

130.47 Immediately release its remaining political prisoners, investigate reports of mistreatment and take action against those allegedly responsible in accordance with domestic and international law (Canada);

130.48 Take concrete steps to eliminate arbitrary detention as a form of persecution of political and civic dissent and release and fully rehabilitate all those sentenced directly or indirectly for their political and civic activities (Czech Republic).

131. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Belarus was headed by Mr. Valentin Rybakov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Mikhail Khvostov – Ambassador, Permanent Representative in Geneva
- Ms. Alena Bohdan – Head of Main Department of the Organization of Medical Assistance, Ministry of Health
- Ms. Inna Vasilevskaya – Counsellor, Permanent Mission in Geneva
- Ms. Irina Velichko – Deputy Head, Department of Global Policy and Humanitarian Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Aliaksandr Dranitsa – Adviser to the Prosecutor General
- Mr. Valery Kalinkovich – First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court
- Mr. Uladzislau Mandryk – Deputy Head, Department for the Execution of Judgments, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ms. Valentina Maslovskaya – Head, Legal Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
- Ms. Viktoria Meleshko – Head, Legal and Personnel Management Department, Ministry of Information
- Mr. Raman Melnik – Head, Main Department of Law Enforcement, Public Safety Police and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ms. Anna Shpak – Head, Main Rule-Making Department in the Sphere of State Capacity-Building, Ministry of Justice